

NORTH DAKOTA OUTDOORS

PUBLISHED BY THE NORTH DAKOTA



GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

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NORTH
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Be Legendary.

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Access on most North Dakota’s lakes hasn’t been an issue this winter for those wanting to darkhouse spearfish, ice fish or both. As a reminder, individuals are required to possess a valid fishing license (age 16 and older) to darkhouse spearfish and must register online at the North Dakota Game and Fish Department website at gf.nd.gov before participating.

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NORTH DAKOTA OUTDOORS

PUBLISHED BY THE NORTH DAKOTA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

The mission of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department is to protect, conserve and enhance fish and wildlife populations and their habitats for sustained public consumptive and nonconsumptive use.

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Front Cover

Jeff Faught, North Dakota Game and Fish Department pilot, navigates over a stretch of the Missouri River in January during the Department's midwinter waterfowl survey.

PHOTO BY ASHLEY PETERSON.



Mule deer buck
in the badlands.



By Ron Wilson

While more than 3,000 fewer licenses were made available for the deer gun season in 2024, the process remained the same to draw a license.

The format used to present the results of the deer drawing — plus drawings for pronghorn and spring and fall turkey — is consistent with the last four years.

The tables provided show the first-choice results in the first lottery. Using deer hunting unit 2J1 for any antlered deer as an example, the numbers read like this: 668 hunters with zero bonus points applied for an any antlered deer license and 158 were successful in drawing a license (158/668); 480 hunters with one bonus point applied and 273 were successful (273/480); 162 hunters with two bonus points applied and 114 were successful (114/162); and on it goes.

In short, the tables show the results for those hunters with the same number of bonus points applying for a particular license in a particular hunting unit.

It's important to note that the deer lottery results do not include the 1% of licenses state law requires the Game and Fish Department to make available for nonresident applicants every year.

Those nonresidents who do apply for a deer gun license in North Dakota compete only against other nonresident hunters for that 1%.

Also of note, the results in the 2024 deer gun lottery show only those hunters who were in the drawing, not those hunters who bought bonus points and had no intention of hunting deer last fall.

RON WILSON is editor of North Dakota OUTDOORS.

2024 DEER LICENSE LOTTERY RESULTS

| UNIT | UNIT / TYPE | POINTS | | | | | | | | | | | TOTAL APPS. | |
|------|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|----------|-----------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|-------|
| | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10+ | | |
| 1 | Any Antlered Deer | 20 / 295 | 73 / 301 | 42 / 143 | 31 / 54 | 17 / 18 | 3 / 3 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 814 |
| 1 | Any Antlerless Deer | 110 / 143 | 25 / 26 | 1 / 2 | 0 / 0 | 2 / 2 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 173 |
| 2A | Any Antlered Deer | 16 / 325 | 55 / 378 | 34 / 180 | 12 / 35 | 5 / 6 | 1 / 1 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 926 |
| 2A | Any Antlerless Deer | 79 / 193 | 21 / 32 | 5 / 5 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 232 |
| 2B | Any Antlered Deer | 23 / 842 | 55 / 770 | 60 / 546 | 52 / 370 | 183 / 252 | 28 / 34 | 2 / 3 | 2 / 2 | 1 / 2 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 2,821 |
| 2B | Any Antlerless Deer | 185 / 542 | 107 / 150 | 24 / 36 | 15 / 20 | 9 / 9 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 758 |
| 2C | Any Antlered Deer | 23 / 584 | 66 / 621 | 81 / 446 | 49 / 227 | 79 / 95 | 10 / 12 | 2 / 3 | 1 / 1 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 1 / 1 | 1 / 1 | 1,991 |
| 2C | Any Antlerless Deer | 158 / 246 | 65 / 81 | 11 / 12 | 4 / 5 | 2 / 3 | 2 / 2 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 349 |
| 2D | Any Antlered Deer | 84 / 481 | 162 / 358 | 121 / 181 | 38 / 52 | 11 / 12 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 1,084 |
| 2D | Any Antlerless Deer | 112 / 115 | 13 / 13 | 2 / 2 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 131 |
| 2E | Any Antlered Deer | 26 / 540 | 51 / 532 | 68 / 327 | 41 / 173 | 64 / 73 | 2 / 3 | 1 / 2 | 2 / 2 | 0 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 1,653 |
| 2E | Any Antlerless Deer | 19 / 181 | 25 / 63 | 3 / 10 | 2 / 4 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 258 |
| 2F1 | Any Antlered Deer | 186 / 735 | 323 / 539 | 135 / 176 | 24 / 28 | 5 / 5 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 1,484 |
| 2F1 | Any Antlerless Deer | 193 / 197 | 25 / 25 | 5 / 5 | 0 / 0 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 228 |
| 2F2 | Any Antlered Deer | 60 / 703 | 117 / 474 | 96 / 283 | 55 / 115 | 27 / 31 | 1 / 1 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 1,608 |
| 2F2 | Any Antlerless Deer | 221 / 328 | 31 / 38 | 14 / 14 | 4 / 7 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 387 |
| 2G | Any Antlered Deer | 39 / 311 | 109 / 302 | 34 / 68 | 8 / 12 | 2 / 2 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 695 |
| 2G | Any Antlerless Deer | 24 / 106 | 12 / 23 | 1 / 3 | 0 / 0 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 133 |
| 2G1 | Any Antlered Deer | 13 / 565 | 68 / 744 | 69 / 500 | 28 / 185 | 67 / 83 | 5 / 7 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 2,085 |
| 2G1 | Any Antlerless Deer | 45 / 297 | 60 / 202 | 5 / 27 | 1 / 4 | 2 / 2 | 0 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 533 |
| 2G2 | Any Antlered Deer | 71 / 823 | 137 / 507 | 62 / 180 | 15 / 31 | 5 / 5 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 1,546 |
| 2G2 | Any Antlerless Deer | 113 / 327 | 14 / 24 | 6 / 7 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 358 |
| 2H | Any Antlered Deer | 311 / 787 | 364 / 485 | 84 / 93 | 4 / 6 | 2 / 3 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 1,375 |
| 2H | Any Antlerless Deer | 120 / 122 | 11 / 11 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 134 |
| 2I | Any Antlered Deer | 131 / 872 | 268 / 724 | 193 / 323 | 54 / 85 | 26 / 28 | 1 / 3 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 2,035 |
| 2I | Any Antlerless Deer | 245 / 254 | 25 / 29 | 7 / 8 | 3 / 3 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 294 |
| 2J1 | Any Antlered Deer | 158 / 668 | 273 / 480 | 114 / 162 | 32 / 41 | 7 / 7 | 0 / 0 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 1,359 |
| 2J1 | Any Antlerless Deer | 135 / 142 | 16 / 16 | 6 / 6 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 164 |
| 2J2 | Any Antlered Deer | 104 / 703 | 235 / 567 | 160 / 261 | 46 / 71 | 10 / 10 | 2 / 2 | 2 / 2 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 1,616 |
| 2J2 | Any Antlerless Deer | 234 / 241 | 11 / 14 | 8 / 9 | 1 / 1 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 266 |
| 2K1 | Any Antlered Deer | 115 / 775 | 220 / 552 | 151 / 272 | 67 / 105 | 36 / 38 | 4 / 6 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 1,748 |
| 2K1 | Any Antlerless Deer | 226 / 232 | 23 / 24 | 11 / 12 | 2 / 3 | 2 / 2 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 273 |
| 2K2 | Any Antlered Deer | 67 / 882 | 147 / 760 | 155 / 519 | 94 / 257 | 108 / 111 | 7 / 8 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 1 / 1 | 2,539 |
| 2K2 | Any Antlerless Deer | 299 / 303 | 29 / 30 | 12 / 13 | 1 / 1 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 348 |
| 2L | Any Antlered Deer | 34 / 263 | 72 / 182 | 20 / 39 | 3 / 6 | 2 / 2 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 492 |
| 2L | Any Antlerless Deer | 55 / 72 | 7 / 8 | 0 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 81 |
| 3A1 | Any Antlered Deer | 808 / 2,073 | 807 / 1,113 | 214 / 243 | 32 / 34 | 8 / 9 | 2 / 2 | 0 / 0 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 3,475 |
| 3A1 | Any Antlerless Deer | 224 / 225 | 9 / 9 | 4 / 4 | 2 / 2 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 240 |
| 3A2 | Any Antlered Deer | 844 / 1,232 | 340 / 353 | 40 / 41 | 8 / 8 | 5 / 5 | 2 / 2 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 1,641 |
| 3A2 | Any Antlerless Deer | 298 / 299 | 11 / 11 | 2 / 2 | 0 / 0 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 313 |
| 3A3 | Any Antlered Deer | 218 / 1,270 | 322 / 907 | 247 / 461 | 83 / 133 | 26 / 26 | 4 / 5 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 2,803 |
| 3A3 | Any Antlerless Deer | 370 / 380 | 27 / 29 | 7 / 7 | 4 / 4 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 420 |
| 3A4 | Any Antlered Deer | 225 / 1,199 | 355 / 794 | 251 / 402 | 93 / 126 | 32 / 34 | 2 / 2 | 1 / 4 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 2,561 |
| 3A4 | Any Antlerless Deer | 427 / 442 | 56 / 59 | 11 / 11 | 4 / 4 | 2 / 2 | 2 / 2 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 520 |
| 3B1 | Antlered Mule Deer | 4 / 381 | 13 / 469 | 20 / 314 | 17 / 159 | 28 / 50 | 1 / 1 | 2 / 2 | 1 / 1 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 1,378 |
| 3B1 | Antlered Whitetail Deer | 15 / 250 | 18 / 259 | 20 / 177 | 13 / 70 | 18 / 24 | 3 / 3 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 783 |
| 3B1 | Antlerless Mule Deer | 31 / 69 | 18 / 26 | 4 / 5 | 4 / 4 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 105 |
| 3B1 | Antlerless Whitetail Deer | 18 / 18 | 1 / 1 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 2 / 2 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 22 |
| 3B2 | Antlered Mule Deer | 18 / 228 | 51 / 176 | 43 / 112 | 10 / 19 | 6 / 9 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 544 |
| 3B2 | Antlered Whitetail Deer | 41 / 106 | 16 / 23 | 4 / 7 | 0 / 0 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 137 |
| 3B2 | Antlerless Mule Deer | 53 / 56 | 4 / 4 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 61 |
| 3B2 | Antlerless Whitetail Deer | 12 / 12 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 13 |
| 3B3 | Any Antlered Deer | 17 / 270 | 60 / 233 | 75 / 168 | 16 / 37 | 7 / 7 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 716 |
| 3B3 | Any Antlerless Deer | 121 / 128 | 13 / 15 | 6 / 6 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 150 |
| 3B3 | Antlered Whitetail Deer | 15 / 90 | 10 / 54 | 33 / 89 | 1 / 2 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 235 |
| 3B3 | Antlerless Whitetail Deer | 39 / 40 | 2 / 2 | 5 / 5 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 48 |

2024 DEER LICENSE LOTTERY RESULTS

| UNIT | UNIT / TYPE | POINTS | | | | | | | | | | | TOTAL APPS. |
|------|---------------------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|----------|----------|-------------|-------------|
| | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10+ | |
| 3C | Any Antlered Deer | 6 / 341 | 24 / 260 | 31 / 352 | 18 / 106 | 23 / 32 | 1 / 2 | 2 / 2 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 1,096 |
| 3C | Any Antlerless Deer | 162 / 168 | 20 / 20 | 7 / 11 | 2 / 2 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 201 |
| 3D1 | Any Antlered Deer | 72 / 375 | 126 / 242 | 57 / 84 | 20 / 27 | 8 / 9 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 738 |
| 3D1 | Any Antlerless Deer | 59 / 59 | 5 / 6 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 66 |
| 3D1 | Antlered Whitetail Deer | 37 / 68 | 29 / 32 | 4 / 5 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 105 |
| 3D1 | Antlerless Whitetail Deer | 6 / 6 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 6 |
| 3D2 | Any Antlered Deer | 149 / 490 | 189 / 309 | 110 / 140 | 31 / 37 | 8 / 10 | 0 / 0 | 1 / 3 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 989 |
| 3D2 | Any Antlerless Deer | 120 / 120 | 17 / 17 | 2 / 2 | 3 / 3 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 143 |
| 3D2 | Antlered Whitetail Deer | 53 / 53 | 7 / 7 | 5 / 5 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 65 |
| 3D2 | Antlerless Whitetail Deer | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 1 |
| 3E1 | Any Antlered Deer | 90 / 500 | 165 / 408 | 133 / 230 | 46 / 62 | 16 / 17 | 0 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 1,219 |
| 3E1 | Any Antlerless Deer | 112 / 112 | 14 / 16 | 1 / 1 | 2 / 2 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 131 |
| 3E1 | Antlered Whitetail Deer | 100 / 176 | 82 / 100 | 36 / 38 | 3 / 3 | 0 / 0 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 318 |
| 3E1 | Antlerless Whitetail Deer | 11 / 11 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 11 |
| 3E2 | Any Antlered Deer | 195 / 657 | 231 / 365 | 87 / 108 | 12 / 18 | 8 / 9 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 1,158 |
| 3E2 | Any Antlerless Deer | 187 / 193 | 20 / 20 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 214 |
| 3E2 | Antlered Whitetail Deer | 77 / 113 | 28 / 28 | 7 / 7 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 149 |
| 3E2 | Antlerless Whitetail Deer | 12 / 12 | 2 / 2 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 14 |
| 3F1 | Any Antlered Deer | 141 / 427 | 149 / 223 | 55 / 70 | 13 / 15 | 3 / 3 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 739 |
| 3F1 | Any Antlerless Deer | 73 / 73 | 6 / 6 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 81 |
| 3F1 | Antlered Whitetail Deer | 107 / 107 | 10 / 10 | 2 / 2 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 119 |
| 3F1 | Antlerless Whitetail Deer | 5 / 5 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 5 |
| 3F2 | Any Antlered Deer | 1,000 / 1,207 | 153 / 153 | 22 / 22 | 11 / 11 | 2 / 2 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 1,396 |
| 3F2 | Any Antlerless Deer | 126 / 126 | 6 / 6 | 1 / 1 | 1 / 1 | 1 / 1 | 2 / 2 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 137 |
| 3F2 | Antlered Whitetail Deer | 109 / 109 | 6 / 6 | 3 / 3 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 118 |
| 3F2 | Antlerless Whitetail Deer | 5 / 5 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 5 |
| 4A | Antlered Mule Deer | 4 / 243 | 6 / 324 | 6 / 252 | 8 / 195 | 51 / 138 | 23 / 47 | 4 / 7 | 0 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 1,208 |
| 4A | Antlered Whitetail Deer | 44 / 131 | 55 / 72 | 24 / 27 | 10 / 11 | 4 / 4 | 2 / 2 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 247 |
| 4A | Antlerless Mule Deer | 30 / 31 | 3 / 4 | 6 / 6 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 41 |
| 4A | Antlerless Whitetail Deer | 16 / 16 | 3 / 3 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 20 |
| 4B | Antlered Mule Deer | 2 / 572 | 9 / 664 | 11 / 620 | 9 / 530 | 75 / 448 | 72 / 248 | 40 / 110 | 20 / 29 | 2 / 4 | 0 / 1 | 2 / 2 | 3,228 |
| 4B | Antlered Whitetail Deer | 112 / 141 | 37 / 37 | 4 / 4 | 2 / 2 | 0 / 0 | 2 / 2 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 186 |
| 4B | Antlerless Mule Deer | 55 / 70 | 15 / 17 | 3 / 4 | 2 / 2 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 94 |
| 4B | Antlerless Whitetail Deer | 8 / 8 | 3 / 3 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 11 |
| 4C | Antlered Mule Deer | 0 / 448 | 1 / 485 | 6 / 486 | 2 / 418 | 18 / 303 | 39 / 265 | 49 / 170 | 37 / 77 | 8 / 16 | 0 / 2 | 0 / 1 | 2,671 |
| 4C | Antlered Whitetail Deer | 67 / 103 | 44 / 45 | 7 / 7 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 157 |
| 4C | Antlerless Mule Deer | 19 / 50 | 15 / 30 | 1 / 1 | 1 / 2 | 2 / 2 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 86 |
| 4C | Antlerless Whitetail Deer | 5 / 7 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 2 / 2 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 10 |
| 4D | Antlered Mule Deer | 1 / 459 | 3 / 513 | 2 / 453 | 6 / 406 | 54 / 386 | 66 / 235 | 47 / 125 | 17 / 35 | 5 / 8 | 1 / 1 | 2 / 3 | 2,624 |
| 4D | Antlered Whitetail Deer | 120 / 146 | 29 / 30 | 8 / 8 | 4 / 4 | 2 / 2 | 0 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 191 |
| 4D | Antlerless Mule Deer | 57 / 90 | 18 / 19 | 3 / 3 | 4 / 4 | 0 / 0 | 1 / 1 | 2 / 2 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 119 |
| 4D | Antlerless Whitetail Deer | 5 / 6 | 3 / 4 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 10 |
| 4E | Antlered Mule Deer | 5 / 209 | 6 / 283 | 13 / 225 | 19 / 169 | 56 / 91 | 26 / 33 | 2 / 3 | 2 / 2 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 1,016 |
| 4E | Antlered Whitetail Deer | 72 / 72 | 3 / 3 | 3 / 3 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 78 |
| 4E | Antlerless Mule Deer | 32 / 37 | 7 / 9 | 1 / 2 | 1 / 3 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 52 |
| 4F | Antlered Mule Deer | 27 / 139 | 59 / 125 | 38 / 61 | 8 / 11 | 0 / 0 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 337 |
| 4F | Antlered Whitetail Deer | 90 / 90 | 13 / 13 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 104 |
| 4F | Antlerless Mule Deer | 22 / 22 | 2 / 2 | 0 / 0 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 25 |
| 4F | Antlerless Whitetail Deer | 5 / 5 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 6 |
| MUZ | Antlered Whitetail Deer | 0 / 2,075 | 0 / 1,621 | 0 / 1,362 | 1 / 1,372 | 7 / 1,142 | 11 / 1,044 | 22 / 1,067 | 32 / 1,069 | 49 / 915 | 50 / 676 | 297 / 1,861 | 14,204 |
| MUZ | Antlerless Whitetail Deer | 135 / 542 | 215 / 349 | 74 / 100 | 20 / 24 | 9 / 9 | 2 / 2 | 3 / 3 | 4 / 4 | 4 / 4 | 4 / 4 | 3 / 3 | 1,044 |

HOW THE LOTTERY WORKS

There are always questions concerning the Game and Fish Department's lottery.

Using deer as the example, though turkey works the same way, this is how it works.

If you fail to draw your first license choice in any given year, you receive a bonus point. You do not have to apply in the same unit, or for the same deer type each year, to qualify. You get an additional bonus point each year you apply and do not receive your first license choice. You maintain your accumulated bonus points as long as you apply in the first drawing at least once every two years.

You receive additional chances in the drawing for each bonus point accumulated. For points one through three, you are entered in the drawing two times the number of points you have. So, if you have two points you would get four additional chances to be drawn, compared to a person who got his or her first choice the previous year. If you're both competing for the same license, you have five chances, he or she has one.

When you accumulate four or more points, the number of additional chances is determined by cubing your bonus points. So, when you have four points, you will be in the drawing 64 additional times, 125 times if you have five points, and so on. Bonus points are accumulated if you do not draw your first license choice and apply in the first drawing at least every other year. You do not receive bonus points in years you do not apply.

Each drawing is still random, but the more bonus points you have, the better your odds. When you receive your first license choice, you lose your bonus points and start over. Bonus points can only be earned, or used, in the first drawing for each species in each year.

The license lottery consists of four separate drawings, one for each choice on the application. First, we hold a drawing for the first unit/first deer choice. When those are issued, we draw for the first unit/second deer choice, then the second unit/first deer choice, and finally the second unit/second deer choice.



2024 SPRING TURKEY LOTTERY

| UNIT | POINTS | | | | | | | | | | | TOTAL APPS. |
|------|-----------|-----------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|
| | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10+ | |
| 02 | 154 / 379 | 94 / 130 | 24 / 26 | 3 / 3 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 538 |
| 03 | 46 / 46 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 47 |
| 04 | 112 / 128 | 34 / 34 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 163 |
| 06 | 30 / 30 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 30 |
| 13 | 328 / 328 | 8 / 8 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 336 |
| 17 | 383 / 383 | 38 / 38 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 421 |
| 19 | 241 / 241 | 3 / 3 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 244 |
| 25 | 670 / 670 | 2 / 2 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 672 |
| 27 | 850 / 867 | 75 / 75 | 5 / 5 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 947 |
| 30 | 680 / 680 | 16 / 16 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 697 |
| 31 | 29 / 29 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 29 |
| 37 | 550 / 761 | 160 / 164 | 3 / 4 | 0 / 0 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 930 |
| 40 | 22 / 52 | 13 / 17 | 3 / 3 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 72 |
| 44 | 81 / 81 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 82 |
| 45 | 111 / 111 | 5 / 5 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 116 |
| 47 | 24 / 34 | 2 / 2 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 36 |
| 50 | 244 / 474 | 159 / 187 | 14 / 15 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 677 |
| 51 | 411 / 411 | 4 / 4 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 415 |
| 53 | 139 / 139 | 17 / 17 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 157 |
| 98 | 348 / 536 | 153 / 163 | 12 / 12 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 711 |
| 99 | 204 / 253 | 33 / 34 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 287 |

2024 FALL TURKEY LOTTERY

| UNIT | POINTS | | | | | | | | | | | TOTAL APPS. |
|------|-----------|---------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|
| | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10+ | |
| 02 | 10 / 146 | 12 / 45 | 6 / 22 | 0 / 3 | 3 / 3 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 219 |
| 03 | 26 / 26 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 27 |
| 04 | 152 / 152 | 0 / 0 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 153 |
| 06 | 16 / 28 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 28 |
| 13 | 217 / 217 | 2 / 2 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 220 |
| 17 | 154 / 229 | 30 / 30 | 1 / 1 | 2 / 2 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 262 |
| 19 | 151 / 151 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 151 |
| 25 | 308 / 308 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 308 |
| 27 | 365 / 491 | 24 / 24 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 515 |
| 30 | 331 / 331 | 5 / 5 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 336 |
| 31 | 21 / 21 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 21 |
| 37 | 298 / 360 | 19 / 19 | 4 / 4 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 384 |
| 40 | 42 / 45 | 3 / 3 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 48 |
| 44 | 45 / 45 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 45 |
| 45 | 87 / 87 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 88 |
| 47 | 17 / 17 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 18 |
| 50 | 194 / 326 | 17 / 19 | 3 / 3 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 348 |
| 51 | 188 / 188 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 188 |
| 53 | 89 / 96 | 5 / 5 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 102 |
| 98 | 245 / 412 | 27 / 29 | 7 / 7 | 1 / 1 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 449 |
| 99 | 75 / 107 | 13 / 15 | 2 / 2 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | 124 |

2024 PRONGHORN LOTTERY

| UNIT | UNIT / TYPE | POINTS | | | | | | | | | | | TOTAL APPS. |
|------|------------------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|-------|--------|-------------|
| | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10+ | |
| 01A | Any Pronghorn | 0/324 | 0/279 | 0/257 | 0/234 | 1/272 | 8/228 | 5/244 | 8/203 | 15/141 | 6/109 | 15/137 | 2,428 |
| 01A | Any Doe/Fawn Pronghorn | 3/25 | 12/37 | 5/12 | 1/4 | 1/3 | 1/1 | 0/0 | 1/1 | 1/1 | 0/0 | 0/0 | 84 |
| 01D | Any Pronghorn | 0/334 | 0/276 | 0/258 | 1/263 | 13/280 | 12/233 | 9/144 | 15/133 | 23/111 | 13/59 | 25/82 | 2,173 |
| 01D | Any Doe/Fawn Pronghorn | 3/21 | 14/25 | 2/6 | 1/3 | 1/1 | 0/0 | 0/0 | 1/1 | 2/2 | 1/1 | 0/0 | 60 |
| 02A | Any Pronghorn | 0/89 | 0/98 | 0/101 | 0/80 | 2/100 | 4/93 | 1/55 | 11/49 | 5/28 | 2/16 | 2/12 | 721 |
| 02B | Any Pronghorn | 0/98 | 0/119 | 0/139 | 1/137 | 2/100 | 3/110 | 2/90 | 6/64 | 11/52 | 1/20 | 5/22 | 951 |
| 03A | Any Pronghorn | 0/36 | 0/40 | 0/30 | 0/38 | 2/35 | 2/37 | 2/34 | 4/17 | 4/16 | 3/11 | 4/8 | 302 |
| 03B | Any Pronghorn | 0/118 | 0/135 | 0/122 | 0/102 | 2/122 | 3/106 | 5/84 | 5/79 | 3/52 | 4/42 | 6/46 | 1,008 |
| 03B | Any Doe/Fawn Pronghorn | 0/3 | 8/17 | 3/3 | 1/1 | 1/1 | 1/1 | 0/0 | 0/0 | 0/0 | 1/1 | 0/0 | 27 |
| 04A | Any Pronghorn | 0/158 | 0/181 | 0/253 | 1/242 | 0/215 | 2/187 | 3/135 | 8/125 | 5/72 | 3/34 | 0/24 | 1,626 |
| 04C | Any Pronghorn | 1/57 | 0/58 | 1/54 | 1/45 | 6/44 | 7/39 | 4/22 | 10/16 | 2/6 | 2/3 | 3/4 | 348 |
| 05A | Any Pronghorn | 0/74 | 0/80 | 0/71 | 0/82 | 2/61 | 2/52 | 4/28 | 3/18 | 0/10 | 0/5 | 1/2 | 483 |
| 06A | Any Pronghorn | 0/124 | 1/126 | 0/87 | 0/88 | 3/79 | 4/75 | 2/60 | 7/33 | 2/11 | 1/10 | 5/14 | 707 |
| 07A | Any Pronghorn | 0/86 | 0/106 | 2/96 | 0/71 | 3/66 | 3/53 | 3/39 | 3/28 | 2/15 | 1/3 | 1/4 | 567 |
| 08A | Any Pronghorn | 0/50 | 0/53 | 0/29 | 0/36 | 0/32 | 0/26 | 1/12 | 1/6 | 0/6 | 0/5 | 1/4 | 259 |
| 09A | Any Pronghorn | 0/53 | 1/30 | 0/24 | 0/20 | 2/19 | 5/12 | 2/10 | 1/5 | 1/3 | 4/4 | 0/0 | 180 |
| 09C | Any Pronghorn | 0/108 | 0/83 | 0/41 | 1/55 | 0/47 | 0/36 | 0/22 | 1/24 | 0/14 | 1/8 | 0/8 | 446 |
| 10A | Any Pronghorn | 0/38 | 1/46 | 0/36 | 1/33 | 4/30 | 7/28 | 10/28 | 10/14 | 3/3 | 1/2 | 1/1 | 259 |
| 11A | Any Pronghorn | 0/138 | 0/102 | 0/99 | 0/82 | 1/64 | 3/41 | 4/30 | 1/25 | 2/23 | 1/7 | 1/5 | 616 |
| 13A | Any Pronghorn | 0/183 | 0/149 | 0/120 | 0/109 | 6/119 | 3/58 | 8/41 | 5/31 | 5/15 | 0/8 | 4/10 | 843 |

2024 LOTTERY NOTES

The number of deer gun licenses made available to hunters:

- 2016 – 49,000 deer gun licenses.
- 2017 – 54,500 deer gun licenses.
- 2018 – 55,150 deer gun licenses.
- 2019 – 65,500 deer gun licenses.
- 2020 – 69,050 deer gun licenses.
- 2021 – 72,200 deer gun licenses.
- 2022 – 64,200 deer gun licenses.
- 2023 – 53,400 deer gun licenses.
- 2024 – 50,100 deer gun licenses.

Drawing a buck license in 2024 was not easy. Randy Meissner, Game and Fish Department licensing manager, said after 11,919 resident gratis licenses and 501 nonresident licenses were subtracted from the overall license allocation, just 19,927 buck licenses were available for the 62,471 hunters who applied for them as their first choice in the lottery.

2024 LOTTERY STATS

DEER

- 75,874 – Number of people – not including 12,170 gratis applicants – who applied for deer gun lottery licenses, up from 75,117 in 2023.
- 39.04 – Percent of successful applicants, excluding gratis and nonresidents, for deer gun and muzzleloader licenses.
- 21 – Maximum number of bonus points for any applicant (nonresident mule deer buck applicants).
- 13,947 – Applicants with four or more bonus points.
- 12.10 – Percent of applicants with four or more bonus points.
- 54.54 – Percent of applicants with four or more bonus points who applied for a muzzleloader buck license.

TURKEY

- 8,137 – Number of spring turkey licenses available to hunters, up from 7,412 in 2023.
- 87.9 – Percent of successful applicants for the spring season.
- 86 – Percent of applicants who received their first license choice for the spring season.
- 4,545 – Number of fall turkey licenses available, up from 4,435 in 2023.
- 83.3 – Percent of successful applicants for the fall season.
- 79.9 – Percent of applicants who received their first license choice for the fall season.

PRONGHORN

- 17 – Number of hunting units open.
- 1,265 – Number of licenses available to hunters, up 845 from 2023.
- 14,089 – Number of people who applied for available licenses, up 4,714 from 2023.

2024 ENFORCEMENT DIVISION REVIEW

By Scott Winkelman

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department's enforcement division plays a vital role in conserving the state's abundant natural resources and ensuring public safety in the outdoors. Our team of dedicated game wardens work tirelessly to uphold wildlife laws, safeguard recreational areas, and educate the public about responsible stewardship.

North Dakota's game wardens serve as the front line of conservation law enforcement. Their duties are as varied as the landscapes they patrol. Whether they're monitoring hunting and fishing activity, responding to calls about poaching, or assisting with outdoor emergencies, game wardens are committed to protecting wildlife and ensuring fair and ethical outdoor practices.

Our wardens are also educators, working closely with schools, community groups and outdoor organizations to promote an understanding of wildlife regulations and safety. By fostering relationships with hunters, anglers and outdoor enthusiasts, they help build a culture of respect for nature and the laws that protect it.

The enforcement division embraces cutting-edge technology to enhance our work. From GPS tracking and surveillance equipment to digital reporting systems, these tools allow game wardens to cover vast territories efficiently and effectively. However, their most valuable asset remains their knowledge of North Dakota's terrain, wildlife and communities.

Game wardens often face unique challenges, from harsh weather conditions to remote patrol areas. Despite these obstacles, their dedication to service never wavers. They are on call year-round to investigate violations, assist with rescues, and ensure that everyone enjoys North Dakota's outdoors safely and responsibly.

As chief game warden, I am incredibly proud of our team's hard work and the partnerships they build with the public. Together, we protect North Dakota's rich outdoor heritage for current and future generations to enjoy.

I encourage all outdoor enthusiasts to familiarize themselves with wildlife regulations and connect with their local game wardens. By working together, we can ensure that North Dakota remains a premier destination for hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation.

SCOTT WINKELMAN is the Game and Fish Department's chief warden.





From left, Scott Winkelman, chief warden, Keenan Snyder, and Jeb Williams, Department director.

SNYDER NAMED WILDLIFE OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Keenan Snyder, North Dakota Game and Fish Department district game warden in Williston, is the state's 2024 Wildlife Officer of the Year. Snyder was honored by Shikar-Safari Club International, a private conservation organization that annually recognizes outstanding wildlife officers in each state.

In a nomination letter sent to Shikar-Safari, chief warden Scott Winkelman said Snyder's district extends from the Missouri River bottoms to the Prairie Pothole Region along the Canadian border.

"Warden Snyder diligently patrols his district and effectively addresses violators at all times of the year," Winkelman said. "He is also a skilled investigator and consistently makes strong criminal cases. He is always willing to help other wardens with complex investigations to ensure that violators are held accountable."



From left, Scott Winkelman, chief warden, Shawn Sperling, and Jeb Williams, Department director.

BOATING OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Game and Fish Department warden Shawn Sperling, Minot, was named North Dakota's Boating Officer of the

Year. His district includes lakes Sakakawea, Darling and Audubon, and several smaller waters.

Scott Winkelman, Department chief warden, said Sperling has a passion for boating and boating enforcement, and his patrols are effective at deterring violations and keeping those on the water safe.



Scott Winkelman (left), chief warden, with Sam Feldman.

FEDERATION'S TOP WARDEN

Sam Feldman, North Dakota Game and Fish Department district warden, Rugby, was named the National Wild Turkey Federation's Wildlife Officer of the Year for 2024.

"Sam has tremendous grasp of the area within his district, the landowners therein and the natural resources that he is sworn to protect," Turkey Federation officials said. "Warden Feldman has been very successful in his efforts to find, cite and prosecute wildlife violators. He has consistently produced high levels of citations and convictions of many different types of violations."



2024 SUMMARY OF VIOLATIONS

| BIG GAME | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| Illegal taking/possession of big game | 62 |
| Failure to wear fluorescent orange | 11 |
| Tagging violations | 19 |
| CWD violations | 17 |
| Killing wrong species or sex | 9 |
| Shining big game | 9 |
| Other big game violations | 14 |
| TOTAL | 141 |

| SMALL GAME | |
|--|------------|
| Using gun able to hold more than 3 shells | 76 |
| Hunting before/after legal hours | 23 |
| Illegal possession/taking | 7 |
| Exceeding limit | 60 |
| Failure to leave identification or sex of game | 55 |
| Killing wrong sex or species | 11 |
| Wanton waste | 12 |
| Other small game violations | 95 |
| TOTAL | 339 |

| BOATING | |
|--|------------|
| Use of unlicensed or unnumbered boat | 39 |
| Failure to display boat registration | 95 |
| Operating without lights at night | 28 |
| Inadequate number of PFDs | 241 |
| Water skiing violations | 6 |
| Reckless or negligent operation | 25 |
| Operating vessel under influence/intoxicated | 3 |
| Other boating violations | 149 |
| TOTAL | 586 |

| FISHING | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Exceeding limit | 41 |
| Fishing in closed/restricted area | 2 |
| Fishing with illegal bait | 9 |
| Paddlefish violations | 4 |
| ANS violations | 73 |
| Other fishing violations | 122 |
| TOTAL | 251 |

| FURBEARER | |
|----------------------|----------|
| Furbearer violations | 5 |
| TOTAL | 5 |

| GENERAL | |
|--|------------|
| Use of motor vehicle off established trail | 41 |
| Hunting on posted land without permission | 37 |
| Aid in concealment of unlawful game | 2 |
| Loaded firearm in a motor vehicle | 25 |
| 440-yard violation | 8 |
| Littering | 12 |
| Hunting in unharvested field | 4 |
| Other general violations | 54 |
| TOTAL | 183 |

| LICENSING | |
|---|------------|
| Hunting/fishing/trapping without proper license | 221 |
| Failure to carry license on person | 346 |
| Misrepresentation on license application | 17 |
| Other licensing violations | 12 |
| TOTAL | 596 |

| WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS/REFUGE | |
|---|------------|
| Failure to obey posted regulations | 40 |
| Tree stand violations | 14 |
| Possession of glass beverage containers | 2 |
| Camping violations | 2 |
| Prohibited use of motor vehicles | 8 |
| PLOTS access violations | 42 |
| Other WMA/refuge violations | 7 |
| TOTAL | 115 |

| MISCELLANEOUS | |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| Possession of controlled substance | 21 |
| Possession of drug paraphernalia | 9 |
| Minor in possession | 22 |
| Criminal trespass | 85 |
| Other miscellaneous | 22 |
| TOTAL | 159 |

| COMMERCIAL | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Commercial violations | 25 |
| Total | 25 |
| GRAND TOTAL | 2,400 |

INCIDENTS 2024 - TOP 10 COUNTIES

(An incident is defined as any situation that requires a response from a game warden. It does not have to be a crime. The situation could be, for example, a stranded angler.)

| | | | |
|--------------|--------------|----------------|-----|
| 1. McKenzie | 173 | 6. McLean | 124 |
| 2. Stark | 172 | 7. Mountrail | 122 |
| 3. Ramsey | 143 | 8. Ward | 122 |
| 4. Williams | 137 | 9. Grand Forks | 95 |
| 5. Burleigh | 131 | 10. Richland | 91 |
| TOTAL | 2,870 | | |

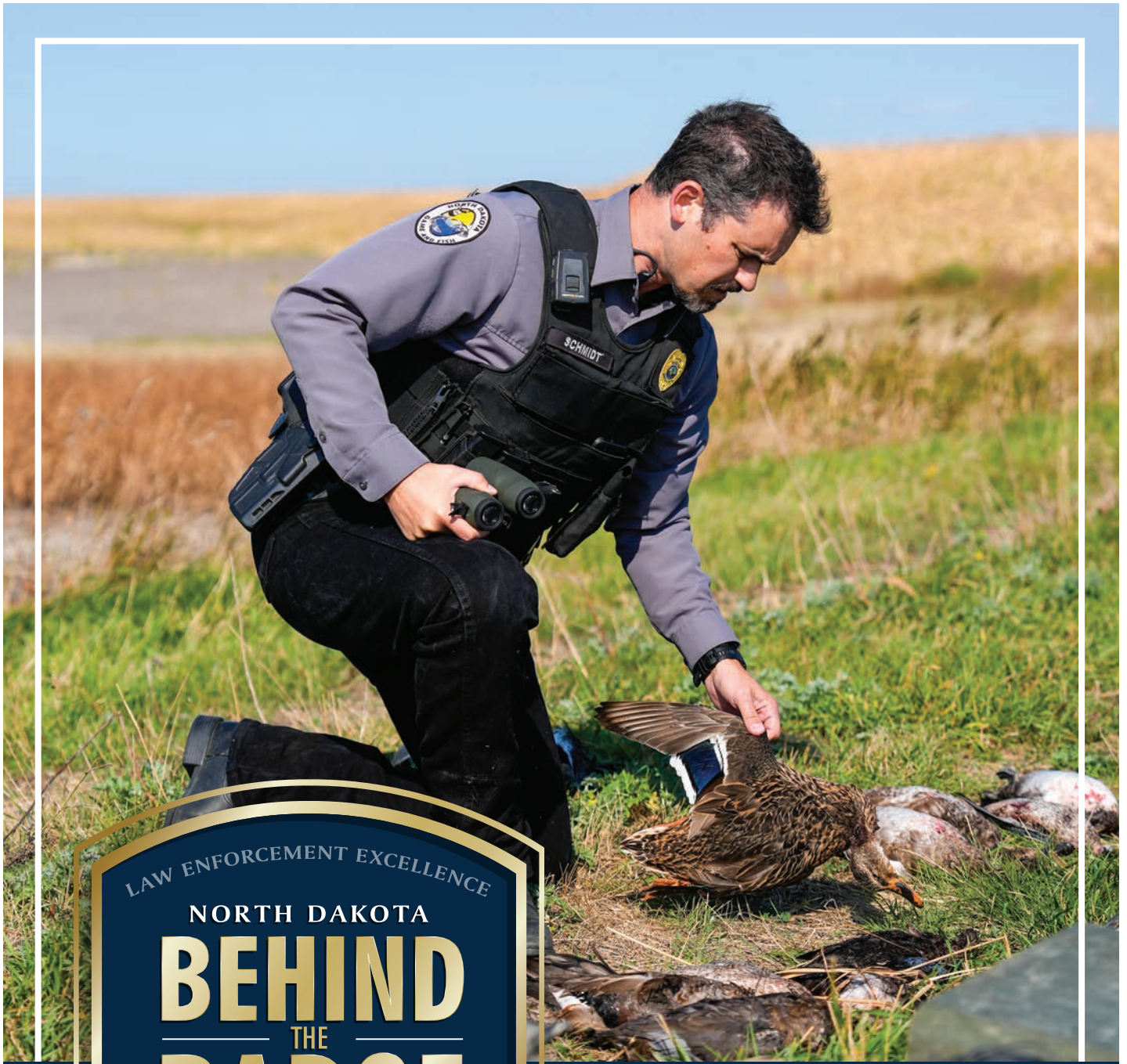
CITATIONS 2024 - TOP 10 COUNTIES

| | | | |
|--------------|--------------|----------------|-----|
| 1. Ramsey | 218 | 6. Bottineau | 103 |
| 2. McKenzie | 171 | 7. Nelson | 102 |
| 3. Benson | 118 | 8. Grand Forks | 93 |
| 4. Williams | 110 | 9. McIntosh | 93 |
| 5. Stark | 105 | 10. Mountrail | 80 |
| TOTAL | 2,870 | | |

2024 FIELD CONTACTS

| | | | |
|--------------|---------------|-------------|--------|
| Resident | 39,531 | Nonresident | 13,626 |
| TOTAL | 53,157 | | |





For an inside look into the life of a game warden, check out Behind the Badge.

gf.nd.gov



HABITAT AND HUNTING ACCESS SUMMIT

STATE'S HUNTING HERITAGE AT STAKE

BY RON WILSON



With fewer acres of wildlife habitat on the landscape and mounting obstacles to access lands that do harbor deer, pheasants and other wild game, North Dakota's hunting heritage, a long-cherished way of life for many, feels like it's at a tipping point.

"There's just less available habitat and there's more demand certainly for that habitat that's left, which adds to some increasing challenges with accessing those acres," said Kevin Kading, North Dakota Game and Fish Department private land section leader. "We've heard from a lot of people on this issue, making it necessary to get everybody in the same room and try to learn about what we can do going forward."

That same room was BSC National Energy Center of Excellence, site of the North Dakota Habitat and Hunting Access Summit hosted by the Game and Fish Department.

"We held the summit to bring awareness to the issue of habitat loss and the increased difficulty in finding places to access for hunting in the state," Kading

"We held the summit to bring awareness to the issue of habitat loss and the increased difficulty in finding places to access for hunting in the state."

said of the gathering held in mid-December and attended by landowners, hunters, lawmakers, wildlife managers and others. "We wanted to provide information and data to the public to help them understand our efforts to put habitat on the ground and to try to solicit different ideas to develop a path forward so we can put more habitat on the ground and increase access for hunting."

Jeb Williams, Game and Fish director, said the summit and its focus carries significant weight because hunting isn't just a tradition in North Dakota, it's a way of life.

"It connects us to the land, to each other and to the future of wildlife conservation," he said. "Our goals are pretty clear ... to strengthen relationships, bring broader awareness to wildlife habitat and hunting access in North Dakota and ultimately preserve the outdoor experiences that define our state."

Gov. Kelly Armstrong, a longtime hunter, addressed the 200 or so in attendance, underlining the importance of hunting to the state's economy, workforce and long-held traditions.

"Every single time someone puts their gun away and says they're done hunting because they can't find anywhere to shoot a rooster, or just to have an opportunity to shoot a couple ducks, that means the

Kevin Kading, Department private land section leader, addresses the 200 or so in attendance at the North Dakota Habitat and Hunting Access Summit in Bismarck.





likelihood of their kid hunting is almost zero," Armstrong said. "And that's really something that we should work on as landowners, as a government, as sportsmen ... we should do everything we can to make sure that happens as few times as possible."

And there are ways in which we can do this, Armstrong added, and there are ways in which we can have these conversations.

"But none of it's going to happen overnight. But we have to remember that if we don't pass this on to the next generation, it will die out," he said. "It's too big a part of the fabric of North Dakota to let that happen."

Kading said the voices from hunters and landowners are becoming louder about the state of the state across North Dakota's landscape. Some of those calls are of frustration, while some are of concern.

"They're wondering what they can do, where they can go, what it takes to put habitat on the ground or what all needs to happen in order for more habitat to be available," he said. "And that, again, was part of the reason behind this summit was to try to get people in the same room and try to figure out ways we can work together and put more habitat and access on the ground."

While wildlife habitat and hunting access aren't one in the same, Kading said they're closely related because if you don't have the former, there isn't much need for the latter.

"If you have good habitat, people want to get access to that in some way, shape or form, whether that's just permission granted from the landowner or through a program like PLOTS or whatever it might be," he said. "They run hand in hand. Having good habitat on the landscape drives people to want more access and drives those wildlife populations, so it all ties together."

Kading said Game and Fish personnel knew going into the gathering that once they turned off the lights at the summit's conclusion that they wouldn't have immediate solutions to the problems.



"It was fully understood by our agency that this was just the start of the discussion that we need to continue with hunters, landowners, policymakers, partners, all those folks who were in the room," he said.

Game and Fish Department officials solicited feedback and comments before, during and after the summit, and worked much of that information into the summit materials, presentations and panel discussions.

"Those recommendations will get some traction, some more than others probably, but there are some good starting points for good discussions and going forward," Kading said.

The recommendations are available on the Department's website (gf.nd.gov), along with a video recording of the summit.

Kading said that while the need to make changes across North Dakota's rural landscape has long been known to agency officials, the importance to do things differently has certainly caught on to hunters, landowners and others.

"I think the urgency is increasing. We've heard from more people who are concerned over what's happening with the habitat on the landscape and access, or maybe not drawing their deer tag, taking longer than anticipated to draw a deer tag, or simply finding a place to hunt deer," Kading said. "But, again, that was part of the purpose for having the summit, to bring the information front and center so they can help make informed decisions on what's going on with this habitat and access issue. The conversation has to continue, and hopefully it gets elevated at different levels, whether it's state policy, funding, federal farm bill ... there's a lot of things that can come from this and that's what we're hoping for."

RON WILSON is editor of North Dakota OUTDOORS.



Having access to places to hunt is critical in safeguarding North Dakota's long and storied hunting heritage.





LAWMAKERS

ADDRESS OUTDOOR ISSUES

By Ron Wilson

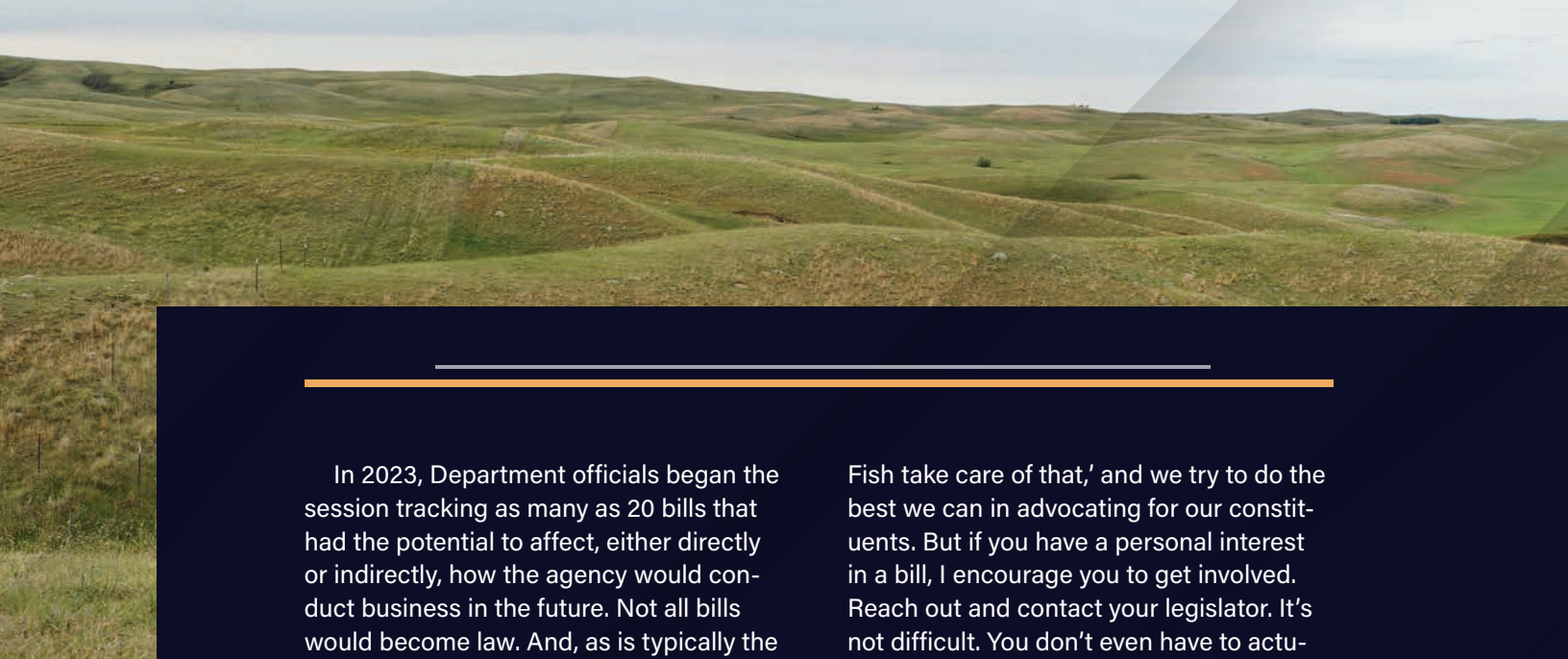
Like snow and cold in winter, there are certainties in life here on the Northern Plains. The gathering of lawmakers in Bismarck every year that ends in an uneven number is one of them.

The 69th Legislative assembly started in early January and will finish sometime in spring. It goes without question — another one of those certainties — that North Dakota Game and Fish Department officials will be dealing with conservation-minded bills that could, and in some cases will, direct how the agency that does not receive any general state tax dollars does business in the future.

“Even though we are a self-funded, or a special fund agency, we still need to get spending authority from the legislative body,” said Scott Peterson, Department deputy directory. “So, we go before them and justify every bit of that budget. Even though it’s technically our customer base’s dollars that are contributing to that, we still need to get authority and approval from the legislature to spend every penny.”

Primarily, the Department’s role at the Capitol during the session is to provide information depending on the bill, but often there is more to it than that.

“We take a look at each and every bill based on its own merit, and we make a decision whether we support it, oppose it or are neutral,” Peterson said. “If it’s a social bill, doesn’t really affect things biologically, there are times when we don’t take a pro or con stand to it or oppose or support. We’re there to provide backup information for those legislators to make their job easier when it comes time to determine whether they’re going to support or oppose a bill.”



In 2023, Department officials began the session tracking as many as 20 bills that had the potential to affect, either directly or indirectly, how the agency would conduct business in the future. Not all bills would become law. And, as is typically the case, some bills generated more scrutiny and discussion than others.

That could also be the case in the 69th gathering, but it's only a guess.

When asked if it pays for hunters, anglers, trappers and others to contact their legislators to express their opinions about bills they feel strongly about, Peterson didn't hesitate in affirming the necessity to do just that.

"In some ways, I would even argue that it's our obligation, our responsibility. I tell people that the system, the process is designed around public input," Peterson said. "I think there's a lot of our constituents who maybe think, 'We'll let Game and

Fish take care of that,' and we try to do the best we can in advocating for our constituents. But if you have a personal interest in a bill, I encourage you to get involved. Reach out and contact your legislator. It's not difficult. You don't even have to actually talk personally to your legislator. You could send them a text or an email.

"If I was a legislator sitting down there on a floor hearing, and a vote came up when I was trying to make that decision about whether to vote yay or nay, I would like to know what my constituents are thinking," he added. "It's kind of like voting. I believe it's not only our right, it's our obligation, our responsibility to make our voices heard. If you consider what we do for the resources and constituents of North Dakota is important, then certainly get involved."

Peterson reminds Game and Fish Department constituents that the agency



Agency officials encourage the public to share their voices to lawmakers on those natural resource issues they feel strongly about.



Hunters, anglers and other conservationists can follow proposed outdoors-related bills on the Game and Fish website at gf.nd.gov.

will again track hunting and fishing issues during the 2025 legislative session.

Outdoor enthusiasts can follow proposed outdoors-related bills by visiting the Game and Fish website, gf.nd.gov. The webpage will be updated daily as legislation is introduced and bills progress through the session. A brief description of each bill will be included. To view the bill in its entirety, click on the linked bill number.

"I have to give a shout out to the agency's communication staff because they track the action of the bills that are of interest to our customers," Peterson said. "It's almost in real time. If a bill goes out of committee with a do pass, they record that. If it goes to the floor, they record the floor vote. So, it's a very quick reference on just the bills that affect the way that we do business for our constituents."

Peterson said it's also possible to view all committee hearings and floor sessions as they are all livestreamed.

"If you go to the legislative website and go to video, it lists all of the current hearings/meetings, floor sessions that are in session. You can watch those live. And if you can't watch them live, they're

archived," he said. "You can go back in a week later. If somebody says, 'Geez, I wish I would have sat in on that floor session or that committee hearing,' they're archived. You can go find what you're looking for and you can hear everything and watch everything that was said in those hearings and floor sessions."

Once all Game and Fish related bills are known, Peterson said the bills and duties that trail them are divided amongst the agency's senior leadership.

"We all get a number of bills that become our responsibility to track, to provide testimony for, to write testimony, submit testimony, go up to the committee hearings to answer questions," Peterson said. "It's a team effort because it takes a team once the session starts. Often, it's more than being in attendance at the Capitol for committee hearings or floor sessions, as we're commonly contacted by legislators who need additional information on a bill. I don't want to say it's 24/7 over the next several months, but it can be close to it at times."

RON WILSON is editor of North Dakota OUTDOORS.

A CHECKOFF FOR

NONGAME

By Ron Wilson



Long-billed curlew in southwestern North Dakota.

Nearly 40 years ago, state lawmakers agreed to the pressing of constituents to establish a way to help conserve North Dakota's nongame wildlife, which then and today make up the bulk of the state's fish and wildlife resources.

The result was the Nongame Wildlife Fund, which provided a means for conservationists to support nongame. In addition, it gave the North Dakota

Game and Fish Department the ability to create a much-needed program to conserve and manage nongame species.

As it was reported in *North Dakota OUTDOORS* nearly four decades ago, the focus of the fund hasn't changed: "In simple terms, the objectives of the fund are to promote hands-on effort to conserve our nongame wildlife; to learn more about our nongame

species; to protect and better manage nongame species that are in jeopardy; and to encourage public use and enjoyment of nongame wildlife."

And like those objectives, the process for citizens to contribute to the fund remain the same. Contributions for supporting wildlife conservation can be made on the Watchable Wildlife checkoff on their state tax form. Contributions are voluntary, no matter if you're receiving a refund or not.

"When the fund was enacted in 1987 it really allowed us to add to our nongame budget in North Dakota," said Patrick T. Isakson, Game and Fish Department conservation supervisor. "Since then, we've had some other funding sources that have really increased what we can do to research nongame, but in its inception, the Nongame Wildlife Fund was the cream of the crop."

Isakson said the tax checkoff has been pretty stable over time in terms of donations, garnering about \$20,000 per year.

"It helps quite a bit. With research for nongame species and watchable wildlife as it is, there aren't a lot of funding sources out there," he said. "And like I said before, at its inception, the fund was really important because it made up a lot of our nongame budget and we still use it today for some great projects."

A project of note in the last few years focused on long-billed curlews in southwestern North Dakota where researchers captured and fit a number of male and female curlews with GPS and satellite transmitters to track their movements and to better understand their habitat use in the state and elsewhere.

Also of note, money from the fund was also donated to the development of Clairmont Family Conservation Park in Bismarck, an urban wildlife resource.

"They've developed, for instance, walking paths and some interpretive sites to provide an understanding to users of the surrounding wildlife habitat and the nongame species that use it," Isakson said. "The park makes wildlife and wildlife habitat more accessible in an urban area."

Isakson said the agency doesn't spend the roughly \$20,000 generated every year.

"Lots of times we will put money away and we can hold it for a certain amount of time and then make a bigger impact on a project, or maybe even



Long-billed curlew eggs.

pay for a whole project with money built up over a few years," Isakson said. "The benefit of having the money available is helping out with projects that are underfunded. So, if somebody brings us a project and we're funding it from a different source, but we can't quite get over the hump with the money we need, then the nongame fund and nongame tax checkoff money really helps."

Back in the day, the Department produced a poster from the winning photograph from the Watchable Wildlife Photo Contest to promote the tax checkoff. While the poster is a thing of the past, the photo contest still exists and doesn't show any sign of slowing.

"I'm always impressed with what people out there are seeing in the outdoors, and it just really shows that there are people out looking for wildlife, not necessarily hunting and fishing," Isakson said. "Those photos and interactions with wildlife come from time in the field, which is important. Besides the game species that we have in North Dakota, we have hundreds of other species of wildlife, and there are people who enjoy them."

"Here at the Game and Fish, we're really focused on being in charge of all wildlife in the state and managing all wildlife," he added. "So, providing opportunities with this money or managing species that people don't necessarily hunt or fish for is important for the Game and Fish to continue to do."

RON WILSON is editor of North Dakota OUTDOORS.



Waterfowl Survey Numbers Not a Surprise

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department's annual midwinter waterfowl survey in early January indicated about 88,000 Canada geese and 3,225 mallards in the state.

John Palarski, Department migratory game bird biologist, said the below average count was expected this year for wintering waterfowl due to cold temperatures in late November and early January leading up to the survey.

"The majority of waterfowl that winter in North Dakota can be found along the Missouri River System. Following a record-setting count in 2024, we counted fewer geese and mallards than normal this year, which was directly due to the amount of ice cover across the state," he said. "Although we don't currently have much snow cover, cold temperatures in November and early January pushed many birds south and froze a considerable portion of the open water."

Lake Sakakawea, which in some years harbors thousands of wintering waterfowl, froze over on Jan. 4, just two days before the survey. In four of the last 10 years, the lower portion of Sakakawea still had substantial open water in early January and needed to be completely surveyed by air.

During the 2025 survey, an estimated 68,788 Canada geese were observed on the Missouri River, another 13,400 on Nelson Lake in Oliver County, and an additional 5,000-plus geese in other parts of the state.

The 10-year average (2016-25) for the midwinter survey in North Dakota is 124,700 Canada geese and 14,000 mallards. All states in the Central Flyway participate in the survey during the same time frame to reduce the possibility of counting birds more than once.

Hunter Education Classes

If you were born after 1961, are 12 years or older, you must take a home study or traditional classroom certified hunter education course before you can get a firearm or bowhunting license in North Dakota.

The home study, or hybrid course, requires 7-10 hours of online and six hours of in-person classroom time. The six hours of classroom time consists of an in-person session prior to starting the online class and at the end of the class to complete testing.

Traditional classroom courses require at least 14 hours of in-person class time, and most classes are held from January through May.

Individuals interested in taking a hunter education class in 2025 must click on the education link at the North Dakota Game and Fish Department website, gf.nd.gov. To register for a class, click on "enroll" next to the specific class, and follow the simple instructions. Personal information is required. Classes are listed by city and can also be sorted by start date. Classes will be added throughout the year as they become finalized.

Individuals interested in receiving a notice by email or SMS text message when each hunter education class is added, can click on the "subscribe to news and alerts" link below the news section on the Game and Fish home page. Check the box labeled "hunter education" under the education program updates.

Participants must turn 12 during the calendar year to take the home study course, and age 11 during the calendar year to take the traditional class.

Contest Entry Deadline Nears

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department's annual Earth Day Patch Contest is an effort to heighten awareness about the environment.

Students who participate will develop a patch design using five colors incorporating an aspect of Earth Day such as environmental awareness, respect Earth, water quality, wildlife, or habitat conservation in North Dakota.

The contest is open to students in grades K-12. Winners are chosen from four grade categories (K-3, 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12). Each winner will receive an outdoor kit, which includes a pair of binoculars and field guides. The grand prize patch design winner is chosen from one of the four winning age categories.

In addition, the grand prize winner will have their design displayed on the recognition patch, be featured in *North Dakota OUTDOORS* and on the Game and Fish website.

Contest entry deadline is March 1.

Youth Conservation and Leadership Summer Camp

The 1st Battalion of North Dakota Waterfowl Brigade will be taking place July 8-12, 2025 at the 4-H Center in Washburn.

NDWTFL is a hands-on, five-day, immersive learning experience for youth ages 13-17. The camp is designed to educate participants about the



importance of wetland ecosystems, waterfowl biology, flock dynamics, shooting skills and safety, stewardship, public speaking, leadership development, and more.

The deadline to apply is March 15.

NDWTFL is a program of Texas Brigades, a Texas-based 501(c)(3) focused on educating and empowering adolescents to become conservation ambassadors. Additional information and applications can be found at www.texasbrigades.org/waterfowl-brigade-nd.

STAFF NOTES



Bruce Kreft

Game and Fish Fills Leadership Positions

Bruce Kreft and Brian Hosek have filled division chief positions for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department.

Kreft, conservation section leader since 2023, was promoted to conservation and communications chief when Greg Link retired after 45 years with the agency.

A Towner native with a zoology degree from North Dakota State University, Kreft started his career with Game and Fish as a fisheries technician from 1989-90; assistant Missouri River biologist from 1990-92; central district fisheries biologist from 1992-2000; and conservation biologist from 2000-2023.

Link started his career with Game and Fish as a seasonal employee in 1980. In 2011, he assumed leadership of the conservation and communications division.

The conservation and communications division informs, educates and promotes fish and wildlife related opportunities; manages nongame species and species of conservation priority; and consults with developers to avoid, minimize and offset impacts to fish and wildlife resources.

Hosek, longtime business operations manager, was named chief of administrative services when Kim Kary announced her retirement after 20 years with the agency.

A graduate of Emporia State University with a degree in earth and data sciences,



Kim Kary

Hosek started his Game and Fish career in 2001 as the Department's GIS coordinator, and his role evolved into business operations manager during his tenure.

Kary began her career with the Department as the business manager in 2005, and in 2010 moved into the administrative services division chief position.

The administrative services division provides policy, planning and support services and is responsible for all game and fish licensing.



Brian Hosek



Greg Link



Judd Jasmer

Jasmer Fills New Post

Judd Jasmer was named Game and Fish Department wildlife resource management supervisor in Dickinson.

Prior to his appointment in January to the Department's newly created district, Jasmer worked as a wildlife resource management biologist, also in Dickinson.

Raugust Retires

Diana Raugust retired in January after more than 30 years with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department.

Raugust, an administrative assistant at the Department's Lonetree Wildlife Management headquarters near Harvey, began working for the agency in 1993.



Diana Raugust



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BACKCAST *RW*



Two mornings ago, it was minus 19 degrees and the windchill somewhere south of there. The kind of weather we hope our friends living in more hospitable climates hear about and marvel at the hearty nature of North Dakotans putting up with such nonsense. The kind of weather that we've long said, with a wink, keeps the riffraff out even though it doesn't.

When I left my pickup an hour ago, it was already 35 above, with the promise of it climbing somewhere north of 40 degrees. The kind of weather we embrace in mid-January because we know the recess from what's unsurprisingly on its heels is short.

I haven't been in the woods for some time. It's been too long, really. Down here, in the shadow of cottonwoods, elms and oaks, the 200-plus acre piece of public Missouri River bottoms looks significantly different than last winter and the one before that.

The difference isn't a change in the terrain, the addition or subtraction of trees and brush, but the confusion of

deer trails tramped into the snow. While this doesn't seem significant, it is considering the untold number of whitetails killed in 2021 during one of the state's worst EHD outbreaks in memory, followed by a brutal winter in 2022-23 that was equally cruel to those deer left standing.

Last winter — and the one before that — deer sign in the snow in these bottoms was mostly absent by comparison. While wildlife biologists caution us that the rebound from such significant hurdles is slow and not over, this is a good sign.

My pace this morning, like the recovery for whitetails from disease and Mother Nature, is also slow. I've been in the woods for almost an hour, and I haven't moved more than 50 yards. I would like to believe that I've caused a limited amount of disturbance, have watched my step, and only leaned against those trees with low-hanging branches that provided some additional cover.

No matter, I haven't seen anything. If it weren't for the untold number of tracks from deer and other animals, I could be talked into believing that I'm the only thing in this river bottom with a heartbeat.

I urged agency officials some years ago to extend the squirrel season until the end of February, rather than shutting it down with pheasants and other upland game in early January, so I, and others like me, could take advantage of a nice winter day and head into the woods with a loaded .22-caliber rifle and a purpose.

I've often wondered, something that's easy to do when you're leaning against one tree and then another for minutes at a time seeing zip, if I kneecapped what good karma I had with the fox squirrel community by opening my mouth in the first place.

I'm certain I will test this nagging theory again before the season closes when we're again blessed with another slice of nice winter weather that begs me to head into the woods with a loaded .22-caliber rifle and a purpose.

RON WILSON is editor of North Dakota OUTDOORS.



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While things can change in a big hurry here on the Northern Plains, a mostly open winter through the end of January when these words were written has been kind to a long list of wildlife, including this coyote photographed in western North Dakota. Of course, the carrot hanging at the end of the string for humans and animals alike is the arrival of spring. While the official first day of spring is March 20, it's only a guess when springlike weather will arrive and remain.

PHOTO BY SANDRA JOHNSON



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